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6.—*The Principles of Sociology.* By HERBERT SPENCER. Vol. I. New York : D. Appleton & Co. 1877.

THE system of synthetic philosophy which is in course of construction by Mr. Herbert Spencer receives in the volume before us a peculiarly interesting application. Of the four previous volumes which followed "First Principles," two dealt with the physical phenomena presented by living aggregates, vegetal and animal, of all classes, while the other two discussed those more special phenomena, distinguished as psychical, which the most evolved aggregates display. In the present book he enters upon the remaining division, which he calls superorganic evolution, embracing under that term all those processes and products which imply the co-ordinated actions of many individuals, actions which achieve results exceeding in extent and complexity those attainable by individual actions. Mr. Spencer's object, partly, is to give a comprehensive conception of this superorganic evolution, as not of one kind, but of various kinds, determined by the characters of the several species of organisms among which it shows itself,—among bees and ants, for instance, as well as man,—and partly to suggest (in which suggestion he of course takes issue with the upholders of a natural or a revealed religion) that superorganic evolution of the highest order known to us arises out of an order no higher than that variously displayed in the animal world at large. In other words, he affirms that the social and moral growths, structures, functions, and products which human societies exhibit are explicable on what is called the evolutionary hypothesis, and on no other.

We may illustrate by some reference to the chapter on monogamy the application of Mr. Spencer's method to social phenomena in the present work, which the author himself probably regards rather as a tentative than a demonstrative performance. Undertaking to trace the gradual evolution of the monogamic relation, he points out that among inferior creatures inherited instinct settles the fit arrangement, that is, the arrangement most conducive to the welfare of the species. In one case, for example, there is no continuous association of male and female ; in another there is a polygynous group ; in still another there is monogamy lasting for a season. A good deal of evidence may be given that among the primates inferior to man there are monogamic relations of the sexes having considerable persistence. Why then in groups of primitive men do we find divergences from this arrangement ? Mr. Spencer's answer is that during certain transitional stages between the first extremely scattered or little gregarious stage of human society and the extremely aggregated or highly gregarious stage there have arisen various conditions favoring various kinds of union, and so causing temporary deviations

from the primordial tendency. Be that as it may, it is manifest, our author thinks, in spite of some counter facts supplied by Islam, that monogamy has long been growing innate in civilized man, all the ideas and sentiments that have become associated with marriage having as their necessary implication the singleness of the union.

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7. — *Turkey.* By JAMES BAKER, M. A., Lieutenant-Colonel Auxiliary Forces. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1877. 4to. pp. 495.

ONE of the few compensations to be derived from the painful interest which must ever attach to a theatre of war consists in the flood of information that pours in upon us in regard to the countries chiefly concerned. Thus, during the last six months so many books, pamphlets and articles on Russia and Turkey have issued from the press that the public has only itself to blame if it remains in ignorance of the real condition of those countries. Of these, two must bear the palm from all others: Mr. Wallace has made an exceptionally exhaustive study of the Russia of to-day, and now Colonel James Baker has given us his personal experiences of Turkey, and the result of his observation and researches into the history and present condition of its heterogeneous population. Colonel Baker, who is a brother of Sir Samuel Baker and of Colonel Valentine Baker, now in the military service of the Sultan, is himself a considerable landed proprietor in Turkey, his estate being situated in Macedonia, about eight miles from Salonica. He tells us that he has resided three years in the country; has ridden over a thousand miles through some of its least-known provinces; and has consequently enjoyed unusual facilities for forming an accurate opinion upon the much-vexed question of Turkish administration, and of the actual position and treatment of the Christians. In his preface Colonel Baker announces his intention of dealing with the subject in a perfectly fair and impartial spirit, and we are bound to say that he has fulfilled his promise. The people with whom he has been brought chiefly into contact are the Bulgarians, whose rebellion and its consequences excited such active sympathy at the time, and have since exercised so powerful an influence upon the Eastern Question. Nearly a hundred of these Bulgarian Christians are in the author's employ, and he has been a frequent visitor to their leading men. While he gives a most favorable picture of their national characteristics, he altogether repudiates the idea that they have ever been so disaffected towards the Turkish government as has been represented. On the other hand, he points out unsparingly the defects of the Turkish system of administration, showing at the same time the